

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-04 IOE-00

SCI-06 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 DODE-00 L-03 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /179 W

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R 231627Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4967

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO SECOND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FREE FORUM

1. SUBJECT MEETING (NOV 19-23) OPENED WITH SPARSE BUT DECIDELY LEFT-WING "STUDENT REPRESENTATION". MEETING THEORETICALLY INTENDED TO DEAL WITH YOUTH, MODERN UNIVERSITY, IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND OTHER RELEVANT THEMES. HOWEVER, DURING AFTERNOON SESSION, SPOKESMAN OF SIHANOUK AND VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST REGIMES ATTACKED US POLICY AND PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

2. PERMREP IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO SEE AND WAS RECEIVED AFTERNOON NOV 19 BY EDUCATION ADG M'BOW UNDER WHOSE DIVISION CONFERENCE WAS CONVENED. PERMREP EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER EXPLOITATION OF UNESCO AS FORUM FOR POLITICAL ATTACKS ON ANY MEMBER STATE. PERMREP ASKED AND RECEIVED M'BOW'S ASSURANCE THAT TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, NEITHER STATEMENTS NOR DOCUMENTS COMING OUT OF MEETING WOULD RECEIVE OUTSIDE CIRCULATION.

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2. M'BOW, WHO EXPRESSED DEEP PERSONAL DISPLEASURE WITH

MEETING, EXPLAINED HE HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM CONTROL OVER SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS, INCLUDING SUBJECT MATTER BY VIRTUE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS NATURE OF YOUR DIVISION WHICH, ALTHOUGH HOUSED IN EDUCATION SECTOR, REPORTS ON SUBSTANCE TO DG'S OFFICE. ACCORDINGLY, M'BOW HAD REFUSED TO ADDRESS OPENING CONFERENCE SESSION.

4. MOST IMPORTANTLY FOR FUTURE, M'BOW EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO SUCH MEETINGS AND PROMISED TO SEEK THEIR EXCLUSION FROM FUTURE UNESCO PROGRAM AT NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE.

5. PERMREP REITERATED STRONG OBJECTIONS TO POLITICAL CHARACTER OF CONFERENCE TO YOUTH DIVISION DIRECTOR EHSAN NARAGH (IRAN) AND CONSULTANT ARTHUR GILLETTE (US) WHO CALLED ON PERMREP NOV 21 TO "EXPALIN" MEETING. BOTH SEEMED MOST UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT OUR OBJECTIONS BUT PROMISED ALL CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS WOULD BE DELETED OF ANY CONTROVERSIAL CONTENT.

6. AVAILABLE INDICATIONS ARE THAT LACK OF INTERNAL UNESCO COORDINATION AND CENTRAL CONTROL OVER SELECTION OF CONFERENCE DELEGATES AND SUBJECT MATTER ENABLED STACKING OF "STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES" LONG LEFT-WING LINES.

7. HOWEVER, PERMDEL DEMARCHES TO M'BOW, DG'S CABINET DIRECTOR COEYTAUX, AND YOUTH DIVISION PERSONNEL LIKELY TO PRECLUDE REPETITION.

8. INDEED, M'BOW MAY WELL USE INCIDENT TO ESTABLISH HIS FIRM PERSONAL CONTROL OVER YOUTH DIVISION AND ASSURE ITS AVOIDANCE OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE HIS ASPIRATIONS TO BE NEXT DG.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS30131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731116/aaaaalrl.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO SECOND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FREE FORUM
TAGS: OCON, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005